

not part of the bank card terminal to elevate the top of the terminal cover above and about the bank card terminal to direct the force from blows to the terminal cover and sidewalls onto the non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal, while protecting the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects, and

- ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal and structured such that the bank card terminal cover may be removed and/or positioned in place without disconnecting the terminal cord.

10. (previously added) A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, wherein the top is hingedly mounted to the top of the bank card terminal to open in a first mode to provide access to a bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot, and to close in a second mode about the bank card terminal to prevent dust, grime, liquids, and other matter from interfering with the bank card terminal key pad and card reading slot.

11. (previously added) A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, including a handle on the top exterior to aid in removal of the top to access the key pad and card slot of said bank card terminal.

12. (previously added) A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, wherein the top is transparent.

13. (previously added) A bank card terminal cover according to Claim 9, including a shock absorbing seal affixed to the open bottom of the cover side walls to allow the cover to removably seal to the non-integral support surface.

Cancel Claims 14 and 15.

Amend Claim 16 to read as follows:

16. (four times amended) A bank card terminal cover for protecting and encasing bank card terminals adapted to be placed on a vertical non-integral separate support surfaces and having exterior exposed card reading slots and keyboards pervious to liquids, grease, and dust, and electrical connections, comprising:

- a. a transparent rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust, and grease impervious top with
- b. a plurality of rigid, crush resistant, liquid, dust and grease impervious sidewalls which define an open bottomed interior chamber sized to fit about and not contact the bank card terminal container ~~and sidewalls~~ such that the cover and sidewalls are supported by the non-integral separate support surface to direct contact forces, liquids, dust and grease coming into contact with the cover away from the bank card terminal and onto an independent non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal; said sidewalls
 - i. extending sufficiently to contact the non-integral support surface not part of the terminal cover to elevate the top of the terminal cover above and about the bank card terminal to direct the force from blows to the cover and sidewalls onto the non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal, while protecting the bank card terminal from contact with liquids, dust, grease, and falling objects, and
 - ii. having at least one opening through which a terminal cord may be inserted and connected to the bank card terminal and structured such that the cover may be removed and/or positioned in place without disconnecting the terminal cord,
- c. opening structure associated with the top of the bank card terminal and terminal cover to provide access to the bank card terminal keyboard and card reading slot in a first mode, and to close about and secure the bank card terminal in a second mode, and a shock absorbing seal affixed to the edges of the cover sidewalls to seal with the vertical non-integral support surface not part of the bank card terminal.

Remarks

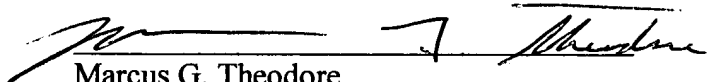
Applicant concurs with the Examiner's above claim amendments suggested in the telephone conference dated 4/7/04. The Examiner's courtesy in discussing final amendments for allowance and extending an office interview on December 23, 2003 to discuss the references of record and the proposed amendments is appreciated.

The foregoing amendments are submitted to comply with the Examiner's requirements to avoid the necessity of color drawings, and more particular point out how applicant's invention is different from the *Eppich* reference, and add no new subject matter. Formal black and white drawings are attached now that the action on the merits has been resolved. The above amendments are supported by the preferred embodiments shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the specification. Specifically, the claims were amended to more particularly describe how the cover is non-integral to the bank card terminal and directs contact forces onto the non-integral support surfaces not part of the bank card terminal upon which the bank card terminal rests. The cover also has openings to accommodate bank card terminal covers such that they can be removed and replaced without disconnecting the terminal cords. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and the drawings.

Claims 14 and 15 were cancelled, along with their corresponding drawings in Figs. 4 and 5 and description in the illustrated embodiments.

Applicant incorporates by reference its previous comments in the Third and Fourth Amendments regarding the rejection of Claims 9 through 13 and 16, as amended, on the grounds of obviousness in view of the *Eppich* as support for the allowance of the amended claims. In view of the foregoing amendments to Claims 9 through 13, and 16, as amended, the art of record does not suggest or anticipate the references of record, and the amended claims should therefore be allowed.

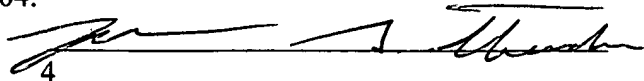
Dated this 19th day of April 2004.



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I facsimile transferred to 703-308-7722 and mailed a true and correct copy of the Foregoing Sixth Amendment to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, to Examiner Lee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, postage prepaid, this 19th day of April 2004.


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